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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A system comprising:
at least two discs that rotate about a central axis;
an actuator mechanism configured to position transducing heads; and
at least one filter adjacent a disc disposed between two discs, wherein the at least one filter has an arcuate inner circumference and an arcuate outer circumference, and wherein the at least one filter extends radially from the inner circumference to the outer circumference.

Claim 2 (Original): The system of claim 1, wherein the filter is mounted to a basedeck of the system.

Claim 3 (Original): The system of claim 2, wherein the filter includes a plurality of filters, each of the plurality of filters independently mounted to the basedeck.

Claims 4-5 (Cancelled):

Claim 6 (Original): The system of claim 1, wherein the filter comprises at least one surface covered with a filter element.

Claim 7 (Original): The system of claim 6, wherein the filter element is an electrically charged layer.

Claim 8 (Original): The system of claim 6, wherein the filter element is a filter media covered by a layer of scrim material.

Claims 9-14 (Cancelled):

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A method of removing particles from an airflow within a data storage system, the method comprising:
generating an airflow in a space between at least two discs; and
filtering the airflow with a filter disposed between the at least two discs, wherein the filter has an arcuate inner circumference and an arcuate outer circumference, and wherein the filter extends radially from the inner circumference to the outer circumference.

Claim 16 (Original): The method of claim 15, wherein filtering the airflow further comprises passing airflow over a filter surface that is substantially parallel to the at least two discs.

Claims 17-19 (Cancelled):

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A system comprising:
at least two discs which rotate about a central axis thereby producing a corresponding airflow; and
filtering means for filtering the airflow between the two discs, wherein the filtering means comprise a filter disposed between the at least two discs, and wherein the filter has an arcuate inner circumference and an arcuate outer circumference, and wherein the filter extends radially from the inner circumference to the outer circumference.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The system of claim 20, wherein the filtering means comprises a filter element on an exterior surface thereof.

Claim 22 (Original): The system of claim 21, wherein the filter element comprises an electrically charged material.

Claim 23 (Original): The system of claim 20, wherein the filtering means comprises a plurality of filters interleaved with at least two discs.

Claim 24 (New): The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the inner circumference and the outer circumference of the at least one filter is substantially circular.

Claim 25 (New): The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one filter is substantially flat and is positioned substantially parallel to the discs.

Claim 26 (New): The system of claim 24, wherein the at least one filter is substantially flat and is positioned substantially parallel to the discs.

Claim 27 (New): The system of claim 1, wherein the inner circumference approaches an inner diameter of the discs and the outer circumference is adjacent a shroud surrounding the discs.

Claim 28 (New): The system of claim 1, wherein the filter comprises a leading edge downstream of the actuator mechanism and a trailing edge upstream of the actuator mechanism.

Claim 29 (New): The system of claim 24, wherein the filter comprises a leading edge downstream of the actuator mechanism and a trailing edge upstream of the actuator mechanism.

Claim 30 (New): The system of claim 28, wherein the leading edge of the filter has an arcuate shape.

Claim 31 (New): The system of claim 30, wherein the arcuate shape of the leading edge of the filter matches a path of movement of the actuator mechanism.

Claim 32 (New): The method of claim 15, wherein at least one of the inner circumference and the outer circumference of the filter is substantially circular.

Claim 33 (New): The system of claim 21, wherein at least one of the inner circumference and the outer circumference of the at least one filter is substantially circular.

Claim 34 (New): The system of claim 1, wherein both the inner circumference and the outer circumference of the at least one filter are substantially circular.

Claim 35 (New): The system of claim 1, wherein the filter is between a pair of the at least two discs.